

Claims:

1. An optical detection system comprising a two dimensional array of regularly spaced detector elements and optical means for forming an image of a field of view in an object plane onto an image plane at which the array is located, the optical means being arranged to map a designated area of the object plane onto the array and including a distorting optical element which imposes a non-linear relationship between areas of the object plane and areas of the image plane.
2. A system as claimed in claim 1 in which the designated area has a different shape from that of the detector array.
3. A system as claimed in claim 1 in which a triangular or sector shaped area in the object plane is mapped onto a square or rectangular area in the image plane.
4. A system as claimed in claim 1 in which a "D" shaped area in the object plane is mapped onto a square or rectangular area in the image plane.
5. A system as claimed in claim 1 in which the distorting optical element is a reflective surface.
6. A system as claimed in claim 1 in which the distorting optical element is a refractive element.
7. A system as claimed in claim 1 in which the distorting optical element causes a more uniform correspondence between areas of the object plane and areas of the image plane than would be present without the optical element.
8. A system as claimed in claim 1 including a lens for focussing the image onto the image plane.
9. A system as claimed in claim 1 in which the object plane is an area of floor or ground and the image plane is at an acute angle to the object plane.